

OGC 69-1591

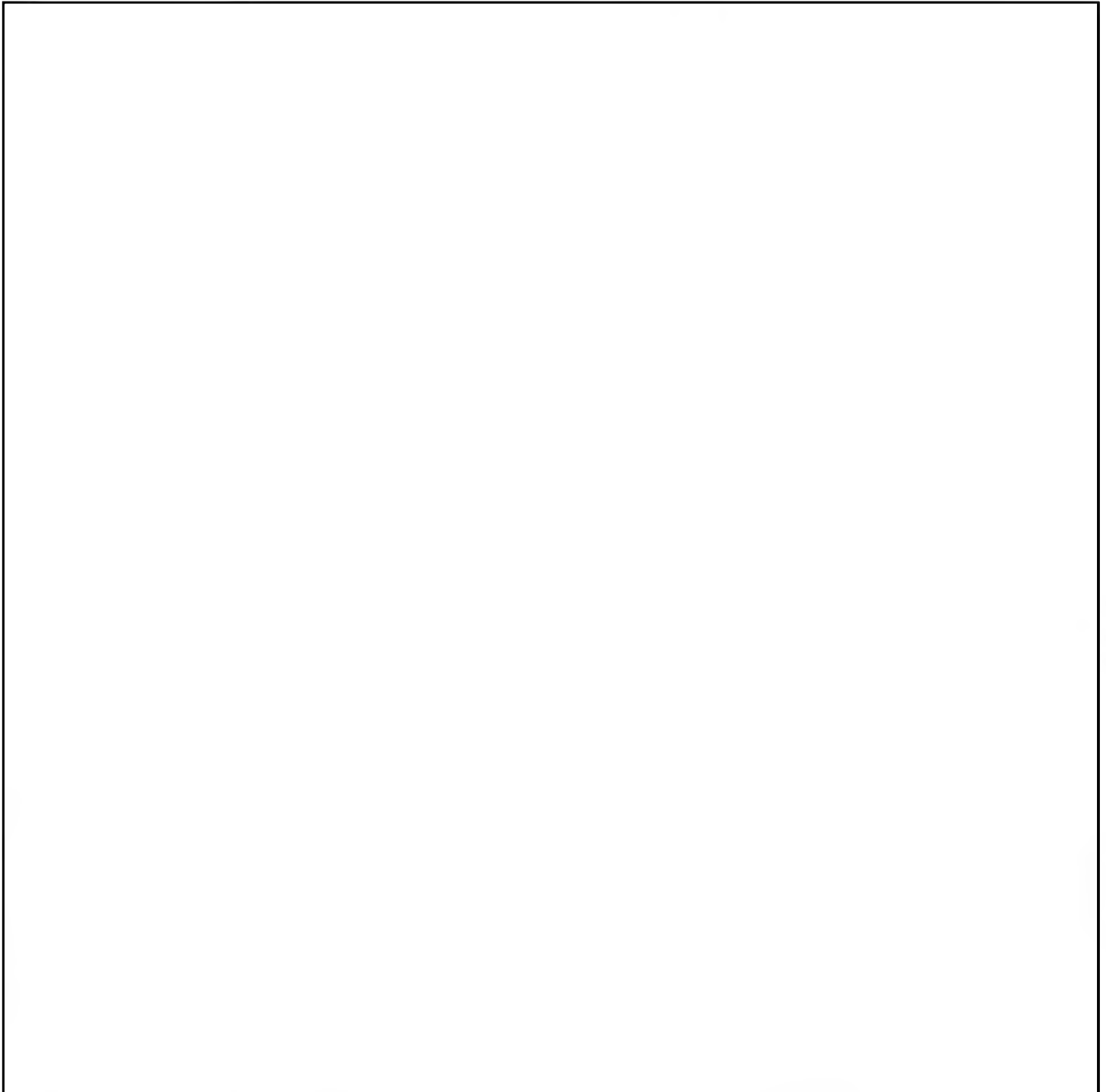
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SECRET

OGC SUBJ: CHUYEN THAI KHAC

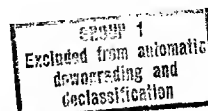
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18 August 1969



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I D E N T I T Y

GREEN BERET CASE IN SOUTH VIETNAM

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SECRETARIAT DISSEMINATION

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CITE DIRECTOR

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PRIORITY SAIGON

18 19 13 Z AUG 69

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1. PLEASE DELIVER FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM ME TO AMBASSADOR

BUNKER AND GENERAL ABRAMS.

2. DEFIN QUOTE 11 I SHOULD LIKE TO ASK FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE IN STEMMING THE

WAVE OF MISINFORMATION, DISTORTION AND INNUENDO WHICH SEEMS
TO BE INUNDATING THE STATE-SIDE PRESS IN CONNECTION WITH THE SO-
CALLED GREEN BERET CASE. I REALIZE THAT THE SAIGON PRESS HAS
BEEN RELATIVELY RESTRAINED UNTIL RECENTLY, BUT YOU SHOULD

KNOW THAT THE STATE-SIDE PRESS HAS BEEN ACCUSING THE AGENCY
OF THE MOST OUTRAGEOUS ACTS. THESE ACCUSATIONS DERIVE AND ARE
ENLARGEMENTS UPON THE INFORMATION BEING PASSED TO THE PRESS
BY THE DEFENSE ATTORNEY FOR ONE OF THE DETAINEES, SUITABLY AND
LURIDLY EMBELLISHED WITH WHATEVER HE FEELS HE NEEDS TO SAY TO
VILIFY THE AGENCY IN HIS EFFORTS TO IMPROVE HIS CLIENT'S CASE.

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3	7
4	9
5	10

TABLE SECRETARIAT DISSEMINATION	<input type="checkbox"/> INDEX <input type="checkbox"/> DESTROY <input type="checkbox"/> RETURN TO _____ BRANCH <input type="checkbox"/> FILE RID
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3. I HAVE BEEN RELUCTANT TO GO TO THE PRESS WITH THE AGENCY'S POSITION ON THIS MATTER FOR OBVIOUS REASONS. I HAVE NOT WISHED TO MAKE ADDITIONAL PROBLEMS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE. ONE OF MY OFFICERS DID MEET WITH SECRETARY OF THE ARMY RESOR AND HIS DEPUTY MR. BEAL ON 15 AUGUST 70 TO DISCUSS THE ISSUANCE OF SOME STATEMENT IN SAIGON BY THE COMPETENT AUTHORITY REPORTING THE STATUS OF THE CASE AND INCLUDING ONE OR TWO BRIEF SENTENCES RELATING TO THE AGENCY. WE FOUND THAT THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY HAD ALREADY DRAFTED A MEMORANDUM FOR CORRESPONDENTS' FOR POSSIBLE ISSUANCE BY THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY ON THE CASE BUT THAT SUBSEQUENT TO ITS DRAFTING IT HAD OCCURRED TO THEM THAT IT WOULD BE PERHAPS IMPROPER FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY TO MAKE A STATEMENT ON THE CASE SINCE HE WAS IN THE REVIEWING AUTHORITY CHAIN. I RECOGNIZE THAT THIS WOULD BE AN INHIBITION ON HIM AND THE DISCUSSION WITH MY REPRESENTATIVE TURNED TO THE ADVISABILITY OF THE ISSUANCE OF A

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2		7
3		8
4		9
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PAGE 3

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SIMILAR STATEMENT IN SAIGON. TO THIS MOMENT NO SUCH STATEMENT HAS BEEN FORTHCOMING.

4. THE TWO SENTENCES RELATING TO THE AGENCY WHICH WERE WORKED OUT WITH SECRETARY RESOR AND MR. BEAL FOR INCLUSION IN SUCH A GENERAL STATEMENT READ AS FOLLOWS. 'ALTHOUGH THE CIA IS PROVIDING FULL COOPERATION TO THE INVESTIGATING AUTHORITIES IN THE CURRENT INQUIRY, ON THE BASIS OF EVIDENCE CURRENTLY AVAILABLE ALLEGATIONS AND SPECULATION SUGGESTING COMPLICITY OF THE CIA IN THIS MATTER ARE UNFOUNDED. THE CIA IS OF COURSE GENERALLY AWARE OF THE CLANDESTINE INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION OPERATIONS OF THE 5TH SPECIAL FORCES IN VIETNAM.' I STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT THE TIME HAS COME FOR THE MAKING OF SUCH A STATEMENT BY AN AUTHORITATIVE OFFICER IN SAIGON IF THE AGENCY IS NOT TO BE UNFAIRLY PILLORED BY LEAKS AND DISTORTIONS DERIVING APPARENTLY FROM OFFICIAL ARMY RECORDS.

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PAGE 4

SEE DIRECTOR

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5. I SOLICIT YOUR ASSISTANCE IN THIS MATTER BECAUSE I FEEL SURE THAT YOU WOULD AGREE WITH ME THAT WE SHOULD NOT ALLOW THE DEVELOPING CAMPAIGN AT THE AGENCY'S EXPENSE TO GO UNCHECKED. I AM MINDFUL OF SOME OF THE DIFFICULTIES IN GETTING SOME KIND OF STATEMENT PUBLISHED PROMPTLY BUT I HOPE AND TRUST THAT THESE CAN BE OVERCOME. END QUOTES

END OF MESSAGE

25X1A

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